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⑳ A method for the optical purification of an optically active 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid amide.

⑳ A method for the optical purification of an optically active 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide, a very useful compound as an intermediate for dehydropeptidase I inhibitor, comprises dissolving an optically active mixture of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide in which either one of the optically active isomers is present in excess, in a solvent with heating, cooling the solution to deposit the racemate, filtering off the racemate and then recovering said optically active isomer from the filtrate. The amount of the solvent used is in the range of from 0.75 to 1.3 times as much as that required for the excess optically active isomer present in said optically active mixture to form a saturated solution at a temperature at which the racemate crystal is filtered off.

EP 0 155 779 A1

A METHOD FOR THE OPTICAL PURIFICATION OF AN OPTICALLY ACTIVE 2,2-DIMETHYLCYCLOPROPANECARBOXYLIC ACID AMIDE

1 The present invention relates to a method for obtaining an optically active 2,2-dimethylcyclopropane-carboxamide having optically high purity from optically active mixtures of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide in
5 which either one of the optically active isomers is present in excess.

An optically active 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide (hereinafter referred simply to as carboxamide) is a very useful compound, for example, as
0 an intermediate for dehydropeptidase I inhibitor, and a high optical purity is required also for this purpose.

Said carboxamide can be converted to an optically active 2,2-dimethylcyclopropylamine with sodium hypochlorite, and this amine is a useful compound as an optical resolving
.5 agent or an amine for measurement of optical purity.

The conventionally well-known method for obtaining such optically active carboxamide is a method in which for example dl-2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid is optically resolved into optically active 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid, and the resulting acid is converted to acid chloride and then amidated [Japanese Patent Application Kokai (Laid-open) No.81518/1981]. This method uses an optically active 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid as a material, so
25 that there is a problem that the compound should be made

1 of optically high purity.

Also, the optically active mixture of the carboxamide in which either one of the optically active isomers is present in excess, can be obtained, for example, 5 by the method described in U.S. Patent No. 4,029,690, that is the amidation of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropane-carboxylic acid containing either one of the optically active isomers in excess. But, nothing is known about a method to obtain a high-purity optically active acid 10 amide from such optically active mixture.

But, in order to obtain the optically active carboxamide, if there is a method in which the excess optically active carboxamide only can easily be separated from such the optically active mixture, its industrial 15 value becomes very high.

The present inventors, in the course of an extensive study to obtain the optically active carboxamide, found that the *dl*-carboxamide has a higher melting point and a lower solubility in solvents than those of the 20 optically active carboxamide (for example, the solubility in methyl isobutyl ketone at 25°C is 0.5 to 0.8% for the *dl*-form and 3.2 to 3.5% for the *d*-isomer). This result means that, when the optically active mixture of the carboxamide is recrystallized, the carboxamide obtained 25 as crystal will be poor in optical purity, and besides that it will be difficult to obtain the optically active carboxamide of high optical purity from the filtrate.

Generally, in the optical purification by

1 recrystallization of an optically active mixutre in which
either one of the optically active isomers is present in
optical excess, a high-purity optically active isomer is
obtained at the crystal side, there being few examples
5 in which said high-purity optically active isomer is
obtained at the filtrate side. In fact, the recrystal-
lization of optically active mixtures of the carboxamide
by the normal method also gives no optically active
carboxamide of high optical purity at any of the crystal
10 and filtrate sides.

For this reason, the present inventors exten-
sively studied to separate the optically active carboxamide
with high purity and good yields from optically active
mixtures of the carboxamide in which either one of the
15 optically active isomers is present in optical excess.
As a result, the present inventors found that: The dl-
carboxamide is dissolved in only an extremely small
amount in a solution saturated with the optically active
carboxamide or containing the carboxamide in concentrations
20 near to saturation; and the dl-carboxamide is not only
not dissolved in such solution, but also deposited as
crystal from its solution when the optically active
carboxamide is dissolved in the solution in amounts
equal or near to saturation. As a result of a further
25 study based on this information, the present inventors
attained to the present invention.

An object of the present invention is to
provide a method for obtaining an optically active

1 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide by dissolving an
optically active mixture of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropane-
carboxamide in which either one of the optically active
isomers is present in excess, in a solvent with heating,
5 cooling the solution to deposit the racemate, filtering
off the racemate and then recovering said optically
active isomer from the filtrate, which method is charac-
terized in that the amount of the solvent used is in
the range of from 0.75 to 1.3 times as much as that
10 required for the excess optically active isomer present
in said optically active mixture to form a saturated
solution at a temperature at which the racemate crystal
is filtered off.

The present invention will be illustrated
15 hereinafter in detail.

The optically active mixture of 2,2-dimethyl-
cyclopropanecarboxamide in which either one of the
optically active isomers is present in excess, as used
as a starting material in the present invention, is ob-
20 tained, for example, by amidation of an optically active
mixture of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid
containing either one of the optically active isomers in
excess. For this purpose, a method is known in which
said optically active mixture of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropane-
25 carboxylic acid is reacted with oxalyl chloride in an
organic solvent, and after removing the solvent by
evaporation, the resulting acid chloride is dissolved in
methylene chloride, and then ammonia gas is bubbled into

the solution to attain the amidation [Japanese Patent Application Kokai (Laid-open) No. 81518/1981].

But, this method is not satisfactory as an industrial method, because oxalyl chloride used as a material is expensive and ammonium chloride sparingly soluble in the organic solvent is produced as by-product so that separation of the intended compound from the reaction mixture is difficult, and besides because the yield is not always high.

For this reason, such a method is preferred that cheap thionyl chloride is usable in acid-chlorination of the carboxylic acid, and that ammonia, particularly aqueous ammonia, is usable in acid-amidation of the resulting acid chloride.

Said optically active mixture of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid in which either one of the optically active isomers is present in excess, as used as a starting material in this reaction, can be produced, for example, by the method described in the specification of U.S. Patent No. 4,029,690.

In the reaction of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid with thionyl chloride, a solvent is not particularly necessary, but may be used as need arises.

In the case where a solvent is used, the kind 5 of the solvent is not particularly limited, so far as it gives no adverse effect on the reaction. As the solvent, there are given for example, ethers, ketones, aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbons, halogenated hydrocarbons such

1 as ethyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, n-hexane, cyclohexane, benzene, chloroform, dichloroethane, dichloromethane, acetone and the like. These solvents may be used in a mixture of two or more of them.

5 The amount of the solvent is not also particularly limited, but generally, it is 0.5 to 10 times by weight based on 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid which is a material.

Considering the subsequent amidation, however,
10 there is no special need to use an organic solvent, and it is most preferred to react 2,2-dimethylcyclopropane-carboxylic acid with thionyl chloride without a solvent and advance toward the subsequent amidation using the reaction mixture as obtained.

15 For this reason, it is also preferred that the molar ratio of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid to thionyl chloride is in the range of 1 to 1.02-1.3. When amounts of thionyl chloride in excess of this range were used, therefore, it becomes necessary to recover
20 or remove the excess thionyl chloride from the reaction solution for reasons of economy and countermeasure for environmental pollution.

The reaction temperature is in the range of from 0° to 150°C, preferably from 10° to 100°C.

25 By such reaction, 2,2-dimethylcyclopropane-carboxylic acid chloride is easily obtained in high yields.

2,2-Dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid

chloride thus obtained is amidated by reaction with ammonia, and it is preferred to use aqueous ammonia as ammonia and carry out the amidation in the presence or absence of an organic solvent sparingly soluble in the aqueous ammonia.

The concentration of aqueous ammonia used herein is in the range of, generally, from 5 to 25% and preferably from 8 to 20%, and the amount of aqueous ammonia is from 1.5 to 6 times by mole and preferably 0 from 1.8 to 4 times by mole, as converted to ammonia, based on 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid chloride.

2,2-Dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide produced by this reaction is a water-soluble substance, and therefore, in the practice of this amidation, it is preferred to use 5 a solvent which can dissolve 2,2-dimethylcyclopropane-carboxamide with a high solubility and besides can be applied to both extraction and recovery of said carboxamide from the reaction solution after period of the amidation. Also, said solvent is further more preferred if it can !0 be used in the final step wherein the optically active carboxamide is separated from the 2,2-dimethylcyclopropane-carboxamide obtained above containing said optically active carboxamide in optical excess.

Preferred solvents usable for this purpose 25 include ones sparingly soluble in water such as ketones (e.g. methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, cyclopentanone, cyclohexanone), halogenated hydrocarbons (e.g. dichloromethane, chloroform, dichloroethane,

1 tetrachloroethane, dichlorobenzene), esters (e.g. ethyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, methyl propionate, pentyl acetate) and the like.

5 The reaction temperature is preferably in the range of from -10° to 30°C, more preferably from -10° to 15°C.

10 It may be possible to carry out the amidation without a solvent and after period of the reaction, carry out extraction with a solvent to obtain the objective compound. But, coexistence of a solvent in the system is preferred in terms of the yield.

15 After period of the reaction, the recovery of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide from the reaction mixture may be carried out by neutralizing the mixture with hydrochloric acid or sulfuric acid if necessary and heating the mixture to dissolve and extract the carboxamide in the organic solvent. The aqueous layer is re-extracted with a solvent if necessary; the organic layers are combined and concentrated; an inert solvent such as heptane, hexane or the like is added to the 20 concentrated solution to deposit crystals or the concentrated solution is cooled to deposit crystals; and then the crystal is filtered off. By this procedure, the optically active mixture of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropane-carboxamide containing either one of the optically active 25 isomers in optical excess can be obtained in good yields.

For the subsequent optical purification for obtaining the objective optically active 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide from said optically active

mixture of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide obtained above, the organic solvent solution of said optically active mixture obtained above may be used as such.

Explanation will be given to said optical

5 purification. The method of the present invention is a one including dissolving an optically active mixture of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide in which either one of the optically active isomers is present in excess, in a solvent with heating, cooling the solution to deposit 10 the racemate, filtering off the racemate and then recovering the optically active isomer from the filtrate, in which method the optically active 2,2-dimethylcyclopropane- carboxamide is obtained in an extremely high optical 15 purity by using the solvent in amounts ranging from 0.75 to 1.3 times as much as that required for said excess optically active isomer present in said optically active mixture to form a saturated solution at a temperature at which the racemate crystal is filtered off.

Any solvent may be used without limitation, if 20 it is inert to the carboxamide and has an ability to dissolve even a small amount of the acid amide. But, more preferred solvents in terms of efficiency are such that the solubility of the optically active carboxamide in them is as high as possible and that of the dL- 25 carboxamide in them is as low as possible. The most preferred solvent is such that a difference in solubility between the optically active acid amide and dL-carboxamide is large and besides the solubility of the optically

1 active carboxamide is relatively large.

As such solvent, there may be given for example alcohols (e.g. methanol, ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, butanol), ketones (e.g. acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, 5 methyl isobutyl ketone, cyclopentanone, cyclohexanone), esters (e.g. ethyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, methyl propionate, pentyl acetate), halogenated hydrocarbons (e.g. dichloromethane, chloroform, dichloroethane, tetrachloroethane, dichlorobenzene), ethers (e.g. 10 tetrahydrofuran, dioxane) and the like. These solvents may contain water.

The amount of such solvent used is very important to the present invention, and it is 0.75 to 1.3 times, preferably 0.75 to 1.2 times as much as that 15 required for the excess optically active isomer to form a saturated solution at a temperature at which the racemate crystal is filtered off.

But, even if the amount of solvent is in the foregoing range, too small or too large amounts of the 20 solvent are not preferred in terms of operation and productivity. Generally, the kind of solvent and temperature are properly selected, and under that condition, the amount of the solvent is determined so that the foregoing range is satisfied and besides said amount is 3 to 100 25 times by weight based on the carboxamide which is a material.

The operation temperatures for dissolution to crystal filtration are optionally selected within the

range of from freezing point to boiling point of the solvent used. Generally, however, the lower limit of the temperature is -20°C. By using an autoclave, even temperatures higher than the boiling point of the solvent at atmospheric pressure may be applied, but not practically so advantageous.

In the practice of the present invention, the amount of the solvent for dissolving the optically active mixture and the temperature at which the carboxamide racemate deposited by cooling the resulting solution is filtered off, should be properly determined.

Generally, the amount of the solvent is made rather small when the acid amide racemate is filtered off at a relatively high temperature, while it is made rather large when the filtration temperature is low.

The normal operation for the practice of the present invention will be explained hereinafter.

An optically active mixture of the carboxamide containing either one of the optically active isomers in optical excess is dissolved in a proper amount of a solvent by heating. In this case, it is not always necessary to dissolve said mixture completely, but a part of the acid amide racemate may remain undissolved as a crystal. Thereafter, the solution is slowly cooled and the deposited carboxamide racemate is filtered off at a proper temperature.

Recovery of the optically active carboxamide from the filtrate is carried out, for example, by

1 concentrating the filtrate, adding a solvent not dis-
solving the optically active carboxamide (e.g. hexane,
heptane, petroleum ether, ligroin) to the concentrated
solution or cooling said solution to deposit the crystal
5 of the optically active carboxamide and then collecting
the crystal by filtration.

In this step, when the carboxamide-containing
organic layer obtained in the preceding amidation is
used, the organic layer is first properly concentrated
10 to adjust the amount of the organic solvent to 0.75 to
1.3 times as much as that necessary to form the saturated
solution. Thereafter, the organic layer is heated to
turn it into solution and then subjected to crystalliza-
tion (crystallization of the carboxamide racemate) in the
15 same manner as above.

Thus, the optically active carboxamide of
extremely high optical purity can be obtained by the
method of the present invention.

The solvent used in the present invention is as
20 described above, but it is advantageous industrially to
use the same solvent as used in producing the optically
active mixture of the carboxamide which is a starting
material of the present invention.

The present invention will be explained here-
25 inafter with reference to the following examples.

Reference example 1

To a four-necked flask equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer and a dropping funnel were added 223.16 g of 14% aqueous ammonia and 400 g of methyl isobutyl ketone, and 80 g of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropane-carboxylic acid chloride having an optical purity of 82.5% was added dropwise at -5° to 5°C over 3 hours. After period of the dropwise addition, the reaction solution was kept at the same temperature for 1 hour.

The reaction solution, after neutralized to a pH of 7 with conc. sulfuric acid, was heated to 80°C and separated into an oily and aqueous layers at the same temperature. Thereafter, 200 g of methyl isobutyl ketone was added to the aqueous layer to carry out extraction, and the system was separated into an oily and aqueous layers. The oily layers obtained (methyl isobutyl ketone layer) were combined and washed with water, and after concentration, hexane was added to the layer. The deposited crystal was collected by filtration and dried to obtain 67.6 g of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity of 82.5%.

Example 1

To a four-necked flask equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a condenser and a dropping funnel was added 114.1 g (1 mole) of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropane-carboxylic acid having an optical purity of 82.5%, 121.3 g (1.02 mole) of thionyl chloride was added dropwise at 60°

1 to 70°C over 4 hours, and the reaction solution was kept at the same temperature for 2 hours. After period of the reaction, the reaction solution was cooled and analyzed to find that 135.9 g of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic
5 acid chloride (purity, 96.2%; yield, 98.6%) was obtained in the solution.

Thereafter, 20.8 g of this reaction solution [corresponding to 20 g (0.15 mole) of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid chloride] was added dropwise
10 to a mixed solution of 50.3 g (0.47 mole) of 16% aqueous ammonia and 80 g of cyclohexanone at -5° to 3°C over 6 hours, and then the reaction solution was kept at the same temperature for 1 hour. After period of the reaction, the reaction solution was neutralized to a pH of 6.5
15 with conc. sulfuric acid, and after heated to 75°C, separated into an oily and aqueous layer. The aqueous layer was extracted with 50 g of cyclohexanone, and the oily layer separated was combined with the preceding oily layer. The mixed oily layer was washed with water,
20 cooled to 35°C and aged at the same temperature, and the deposited crystal was collected by filtration at the same temperature.

The crystal obtained by filtration was a crude cake containing 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide
25 having an optical purity of 28.5%.

The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure, and heptane was added to the residual solution. The deposited crystal was collected by filtration and

1 dried under reduced pressure to obtain 12.8 g of (+)-2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity of 98.5%.

m.p. 135.5° - 136.5°C

5 $[\alpha]_{546}^{20} +99.3^\circ$ (c=2, ethanol).

Example 2

To a four-necked flask equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer and a condenser were added 5 g of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity of 82.5% obtained in Reference example 1 and 176 g of methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK), and the resulting mixture was heated to turn it into a solution and then cooled to 10°C. The deposited crystal was filtered off at the same temperature to obtain 2,2-dimethylcyclopropane-carboxylic acid amide having an optical purity of 20.1%. The filtrate was concentrated, hexane was added to the residual solution, and the deposited crystal was collected by filtration and dried to obtain 4.03 g (percent recovery, 20.6%) of (+)-2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity of 97.5%.

m.p. 137° - 139°C

$[\alpha]_{546}^{20} +98^\circ$ (c=2, ethanol).

Hereupon, the amount of MIBK used in this example is 1.25 times as much as that required for excess (+)-2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide present in the solution to form a saturated solution at the temperature (10°C) at which the crystal is filtered off.

1 In the examples described later, all the amounts 0155779
of MIBK simply expressed by a multiple have the same
meaning as above.

Examples 3 to 5 and Comparative examples 1 and 2

5 Procedure was carried out in the same manner as in Example 2 except that the amounts of MIBK and crystal filtering temperatures shown in Table 1 were used. The results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

	Amount of MIBK	Filtration temperature (°C)	Crystal side	Filtrate side [(+)-isomer crystal]	Percent recovery (%)
			Optical purity (%)	Optical purity (%)	
Example	3 140 g (1.0 time)	10	23.7	98.5	78.6
	4 117 g (0.83 time)	10	33	99	75
	5 65 g (0.83 time)	30	30	99	76
Comparative example	1 230 g (1.67 time)	10	15	90	90
	2 70 g (0.5 time)	10	62	100	54

1 Example 6

To a four-necked flask equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer and a condenser were added 5 g of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity of 82.5% obtained in Reference example 1 and 100 g (0.83 time) of aqueous methyl isobutyl ketone (water content, 2.5 - 3%) showing saturation with water at 20°C, and the resulting mixture was heated to turn it into a solution and then cooled to 20°C. The deposited crystal was filtered off at the same temperature to obtain 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity of 16.5%. The filtrate was concentrated, hexane was added to the residual solution, and the deposited crystal was collected by filtration and dried to obtain 4 g (percent recovery, 80%) of (+)-2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity of 99%.

m.p. 137.5° - 139°C

$[\alpha]_{546}^{20} +99^\circ$ (c=2, ethanol).

Example 7

20 To a four-necked flask equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a condenser and a dropping funnel was added 114.1 g (1 mole) of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid (optical purity, 80%), 121.3 g (1.02 mole) of thionyl chloride was added dropwise at 60° to 70°C over 25 2 hours, and the reaction solution was kept at the same temperature for 4 hours.

This reaction solution was added dropwise from the

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1 dropping funnel at -2° to 5°C over 2 hours to a mixed solution of 454.4 g (3.74 moles) of 14% aqueous ammonia and 500 g of MIBK fed to the same flask as above. The reaction solution was kept at the same temperature for
5 30 minutes and neutralized to a pH of 7 or less with sulfuric acid. Thereafter, the solution was then heated to 75° to 80°C to turn it into solution and separated into two layers. The separated aqueous layer was re-extracted with 300 g of MIBK.

10 The MIBK layers were combined, washed with water, cooled to 30°C and aged at the same temperature. The deposited crystal was collected by filtration at the same temperature.

15 The crystal obtained by filtration was a crude cake containing 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity of 19.8%.

The filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure, hexane was added to the residual solution and the deposited crystal was collected by filtration and dried
20 under reduced pressure to obtain 87.24 g of (+)-2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity of 98%.

m.p. 136° - 137.5°C

$[\alpha]_{546}^{20}$ +99° (c=2, ethanol)

25 Example 8

A mixture of 20 g of MIBK and 2 g of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity

1 of 31.5%, as prepared by mixing 1 g each of the filtered
crystals obtained in Examples 3 and 4, was stirred at 70°C
for 1 hour to dissolve the crystal. The resulting solution
was slowly cooled to 25°C and stirred at the same
5 temperature for 30 minutes. The deposited crystal was
collected by filtration and dried under reduced pressure to
obtain 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical
purity of 6.7%.

MIBK was removed from the filtrate by evaporation,
10 and the residue was dried to obtain 0.57 g of (+)-2,2-
dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity
of 97%.

$[\alpha]_{546}^{20} +97^\circ$ (c=2, ethanol).

Example 9

15 Procedure was carried out in completely the
same manner as in Example 7 except that 2,2-dimethylcyclo-
propanecarboxylic acid having an optical purity of 90%
was used in place of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic
acid having an optical purity of 80%, and besides that the
20 amounts of MIBK at the respective scenes of use were 565 g
and 282.5 g, to obtain 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide
having an optical purity of 46% as a filtered crystal.
From the filtrate was obtained 93.9 g of (+)-2,2-dimethyl-
cyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity of 99%
25 as a crystal.

m.p. 136° - 137.5°C

$[\alpha]_{546}^{20} +99.5^\circ$ (c=2, ethanol).

1 Example 10

A mixture of 100 g of ethyl acetate and 5 g of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity of 82.5% obtained in Reference example 1, was kept under 5 reflux for 1 hour and then slowly cooled to 30°C. The deposited crystal was filtered off at the same temperature. The filtrate was concentrated as such, and hexane was added to the residual solution. The deposited crystal was collected by filtration and dried to obtain 3.65 g of (+)-10 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity of 98.3%.

$[\alpha]_{546}^{20} +99.2^\circ$ (c=2, ethanol).

Example 11

Procedure was carried out in completely the same 15 manner as in Example 10 except that 250 g of chloroform was used in place of ethyl acetate, to obtain 3.4 g of (+)-2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity of 97.9%.

Example 12

20 A mixture of 50 g of 20% ethanol and 5 g of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an optical purity of 82.5% obtained in Reference example 1, was kept at 80°C for 1 hour and then slowly cooled to 30°C. After maintaining the same temperature for 1 hour, the deposited crystal was 25 filtered off. The filtrate was concentrated as such, and additional ethanol was then added to the residual solution

1 to carry out azeotropic dehydration. Thereafter, hexane
was added to the residual solution, and the deposited
crystal was collected by filtration and dried to obtain
3.80 g of (+)-2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having
5 an optical purity of 97.3%.

$[\alpha]_{546}^{20} +97.7^\circ$ (c=2, ethanol).

Example 13

To the same apparatus as used in Example 1 were
added 50.3 g of 16% aqueous ammonia and 90 g of pentyl
10 acetate, and 20.8 g of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic
acid chloride obtained in Example 1 was added dropwise
at -5° to 0°C over 3 hours. Thereafter, the reaction
solution was kept at the same temperature for 1 hour. After
period of the reaction, the reaction solution was neutralized
15 to a pH of 6.5 with conc. sulfuric acid, and after
heating to 70° to 75°C, separated into an oily and aqueous
layers. After extracting the aqueous layer with 70 ml of
pentyl acetate, the oily layer separated and the preceding
oily layer were combined, washed with water, cooled to 35°C
20 and aged at the same temperature. The deposited crystal
was collected by filtration at the same temperature to
obtain a crude cake containing 2,2-dimethylcyclopropane-
carboxamide having an optical purity of 41.5%.

The filtrate was concentrated under reduced
25 pressure, and petroleum ether was added to the residual
solution. The deposited crystal was collected by filtration
and dried under reduced pressure to obtain 11.9 g

1 of (+)-2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide having an
optical purity of 99%.

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m.p. 135° - 136°C

$[\alpha]_{546}^{20}$ +99.5° (c=2, ethanol).

CLAIMS:-

1. A method for the optical purification of an optically active 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide by dissolving an optically active mixture of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide in which either one of the optically active isomers is present in excess, in a solvent with heating, cooling the solution to deposit the racemate, filtering off the racemate and then recovering said optically active isomer from the filtrate, which method is characterized in that the amount of the solvent used is in the range of from 0.75 to 1.3 times as much as that required for the excess optically active isomer present in said optically active mixture to form a saturated solution at a temperature at which the racemate crystal is filtered off.
2. A method for producing an optically active mixture of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide in which either one of the optically active isomers is present in excess, which comprises reacting 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid in which either one of the optically active isomers is present in excess, with thionyl chloride, and then reacting the resulting product with ammonia.
3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the molar ratio of 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid: thionyl chloride is from 1:1.02 to 1:1.3 inclusive.
4. A method according to Claim 2 or 3, wherein said ammonia is aqueous ammonia.
5. A method according to Claim 3 or 4, wherein said aqueous ammonia is a mixed solution with an organic solvent sparingly soluble in water.

6. A method according to Claim 5, wherein said organic solvent is a ketone (e.g. methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, cyclopentanone or cyclohexanone), halogenated hydrocarbon (e.g. dichloromethane, chloroform, dichloro-
5 ethane, tetrachloroethane or dichlorobenzene) or ester (e.g. ethyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, methyl propionate or pentyl acetate).

7. A method according to any one of Claims 2 to 6, wherein a temperature at which the reaction with ammonia
10 is carried out is in the range of from -10° to 15°C.

8. A method according to Claim 1, wherein said solvent is an alcohol (e.g. methanol, ethanol, isopropyl alcohol or butanol), ketone (e.g. acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, cyclopentanone or cyclohexanone), ester (e.g. ethyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, methyl propionate or pentyl acetate), ether (e.g. tetrahydrofuran or dioxane) or halogenated hydrocarbon (e.g. dichloromethane, chloroform, dichloroethane, tetrachloroethane or dichlorobenzene) or an aqueous mixture of any of these solvents.

20 9. A method according to Claim 1 or Claim 8, which includes the preliminary steps of reacting 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxylic acid in which either one of the optically active isomers is present in excess, with thionyl chloride in a molar ratio of from 1:1.02 to 1:1.3 inclusive, and then
25 reacting the resulting product with ammonia to give the said optically active 2,2-dimethylcyclopropanecarboxamide in which either one of the optically active isomers is present in excess.

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl 4)
A	EP-A-0 028 778 (MERCK) * Page 20, line 25 - page 23, line 5 *	1,8,9	C 07 C 103/19 C 07 C 102/00
Y		2,3,7	
Y	---	2,3,7	
	GB-A-1 260 847 (NATIONAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION) * Example 1 *		

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl 4)
			C 07 C 102/00 C 07 C 103/00 C 07 B 57/00
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	31-05-1985	WRIGHT M.W.	
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